

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method for assessing the patency of a portion of a blood vessel in an animal comprising: (a) administering a fluorescent dye to the animal; (b) obtaining at least one angiographic image of the vessel portion; and of claim 53 further comprising (c) evaluating the at least one angiographic image to ~~assess the~~determine patency of the at least one vessel portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the blood vessel is selected from ~~the~~a group consisting of coronary arteries, the peripheral vasculature, carotid arteries, intracranial vasculature and AV fistulas.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~blood~~at least one vessel portion is a bypass graft.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the blood vessel is a coronary artery.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein step (b) is performed while the heart is beating.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1, 6,~~1, wherein a plurality of images of the vessel portion are obtained during ~~an~~the invasive procedure in which a bypass graft is created in the vessel portion, and wherein a first angiographic image of the vessel portion is obtained prior to creation of the bypass graft and a second angiographic image of the vessel portion is obtained after the bypass graft.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the first and second angiographic images are obtained while the heart is beating.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent dye is selected from the group consisting of ICG, ~~analogue members of the~~ tricarbo-cyanine dyes, and mixtures thereof.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the fluorescent dye is ICG.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of angiographic images is obtained during step (b).
13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising displaying the plurality of angiographic images on a video monitor.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of angiographic images is obtained using a CCD camera.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising storing the plurality of angiographic images on a recordable medium.
16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of images is obtained at least in part using an endoscope.

Claims 17-52 (withdrawn)

53. (New) A method for visualizing, during an invasive procedure on an animal, at least a portion of at least one blood vessel of the animal that is exposed by the procedure, comprising: (a) administering a fluorescent dye to the animal; and (b) obtaining at least one angiographic image of the portion.